



Africa Paves the Way Forward: new possibilities for agriculture trade

WTO Public Forum, Sept. 25th, 2006

Room D – 16:30 – 18:00

Since 2003, the problems faced by commodity¹ dependent developing countries (CDDCs) in a context of international trade liberalization have been regularly brought to the WTO membership's attention by a group of African countries. Most recently, the African Group released a paper, in June 2006, which proposed that modalities on agriculture should include measures:

- To tackle tariff escalation;
- To allow commodity producer agreements aimed at ensuring remunerative and stable prices;
- To provide financial and technical assistance to CDDCs.

It is an important initiative that deserves serious consideration in the framework of the Doha Round of negotiations. However, getting out of the poverty trap will require a broader perspective that takes into account local and regional markets as well.

Programme :

Introductory remarks: Jim Harkness, IATP (chair)

1. What multilateral tools can help solve the commodity crisis? Arlène Alpha, Coordination SUD – 15'
2. Local and regional markets: opportunities for sustainable diversification? Saliou SARR, ROPPA (West African Farmers and Farm producers network) – 15'

Debate – 45'

Synthesis and conclusion: Henri Rouillé d'Orfeuil, Coordination SUD and, M. Elly Kamahungye, Ugandan mission to the WTO – 10'

¹ The term **commodity** is used to describe a particular type of goods. The main distinguishing feature of these goods is that they tend to be homogeneous. In other words there are only very small differences in goods from different producers, even if the farms where they are grown are half the world away from each other.